



Released: November, 20 1997

AEF deploying to Southwest Asia

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. - The Secretary of Defense has directed the deployment of an Air Expeditionary Force to Bahrain at the request of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command. This AEF was approved Nov. 18 for possible deployment if requested.

The AEF will be designated the 347th Air Expeditionary Wing once it arrives in Bahrain.

The 347th AEW will consist of 12 F-15Cs from Eglin AFB, Fla.; 12 F-16Cs from Moody AFB, Ga.; 6 F-16C/Js from Shaw AFB, S.C.; 2 B-1s from Ellsworth AFB, S.D.; and four KC-135R tanker aircraft from Fairchild AFB, Wash.

Elements of a Patriot Battery from the 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Fort Bliss, Texas, are also being sent to Bahrain to provide ground air defense for the AEW.

This deployment is being conducted under the conditions of the defense cooperation agreement between the United States and the government of Bahrain.

An AEW is a tailored employment package consisting of approximately 30 aircraft and 1,100 people and can have bombs on target within 48 hours of deployment notification.

The mission of an AEW is to provide theater commanders with rapid, responsive, and reliable air power options to meet specific theater needs by providing a wide range of capabilities, said Maj. Frank Smolinsky, Air Combat Command media relations. The AEW can produce 70-80 combat sorties per day including air-to-air, air-to-ground, and suppression of enemy air defenses capabilities.

The Air Force has approximately 6,000 people and 140 aircraft currently participating in Operation Southern Watch, patrolling the no-fly zone in Southern Iraq.

There have been six AEF deployments with the most recent, the 366th AEW, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, returning from Bahrain in October and November. The first AEF was deployed to Shaikh Isa, Bahrain from October to December 1995.

Six F-117 Stealth Fighters from Holloman AFB, N.M., are already en route to Kuwait as part of a military force package approved by the President Nov. 18. This package also included six B-52 bombers from Barksdale AFB, La., which are headed to Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory. These aircraft are headed to the Persian Gulf region to demonstrate U.S. resolve to Saddam Hussein so he complies with his obligations to the international community.

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Air Combat Command Public Affairs, United States Air Force, [ACC/PAI](#)



Air Force News

News Service

Air Expeditionary Force deploying to Southwest Asia

Released: Nov 21, 1997

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These aircraft are headed to the Persian Gulf region to demonstrate U.S. resolve to Saddam Hussein so he complies with his obligations to the international community. (Courtesy of ACC News Service)





Air Force News

News Service

Moody takes lead in Air Expeditionary Force

Released: Nov 26, 1997

*by Senior Airman Nickol Houston
and Airman Tre J. Tiernan
347th Wing*

[MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.](#) (AFNS) -- It was farewell time Nov. 21 as many Moody personnel boarded the aircraft that would take them to the Arabian Gulf. Moody was designated as the lead unit for the Air Expeditionary Force.

Approximately 400 servicemembers left aboard C-5 aircraft to deploy to Bahrain as part of an AEF. Among those deployed was 347th Wing commander [Brig. Gen. L.D. Johnston](#).

Col. Billy Diehl, 347th Wing vice commander, gave a briefing to media Nov. 20 about the feelings of the personnel involved. He said the men and women were "ready to go do their jobs and take care of business."

For many deploying, it was the first time they had been in such a situation. Feelings of excitement and anticipation were commonplace, said Johnston.

Aircraft and personnel from several other bases joined with Moody which was redesignated the 347th Air Expeditionary Wing. The other bases deployed were: [Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.](#); [Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.](#); [Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.](#); and [Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash.](#)

Twelve [F-16C](#) aircraft were also due to leave Nov. 22, but were delayed until Nov. 23.

When asked how the pilots felt about the deployment, Lt. Col. Stu Johnson, commander 68th Fighter Squadron, said his men were "pumped and ready to do their jobs." He said the flight over would take 16 hours and more than 19 refuelings. "It takes a lot to stay alert, so we talk to each other a lot."

Johnson will take the lead in the flight to the desert.

The expeditionary wing includes: 12 [F-15s](#), 18 F-16s, two [B-1s](#) and four [KC-135s](#). The 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, from Fort Bliss, Texas, also sent elements of a Patriot Missile Battery.





Air Combat Command bases ready to deploy AEF to Persian Gulf

Released: Nov 19, 1997



An Air Expeditionary Force advance team from the 1st Fighter Wing, Langley Air Force Base, Va., arrives at an airfield in Jordan. An AEF from Air Combat Command is currently standing by, ready to deploy to Bahrain if necessary. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Paul R. Caron)



Airman First Class (now senior airman) Keith J. Carter, a weather apprentice from Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., was part of an Air Expeditionary Force previously assigned overseas to Moron Air Base, Spain. An AEF from Air Combat Command is currently standing by, ready to deploy to Bahrain if necessary. (Photo by Senior Airman Richard T. Kaminsky)

[LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va.](#) (AFNS) -- Four [Air Combat Command](#) bases are part of the Air Expeditionary Force ready to deploy to Bahrain if requested by the commander of U.S. Central Command.

Approximately 30 aircraft, including two [B-1](#) bombers, have been approved by [President Clinton](#) for deployment to the Persian Gulf region if requested. The planes are from [Moody Air Force Base, Ga.](#), [Shaw AFB, S.C.](#), [Eglin AFB, Fla.](#), and [Ellsworth AFB, S.D.](#)

The mission of an AEF is to provide theater commanders with rapid, responsive, and reliable airpower options to meet specific theater needs by providing a wide range of capabilities, said Maj. Frank Smolinsky, ACC media relations.

An AEF is a tailored employment package of approximately 30 aircraft and 1,100 people and can have bombs on target within 48 hours. The AEF can produce 70-80 combat sorties a day to include bombers employed from a home station or forward operating location. Its capabilities include air-to-ground, air-to-air, and suppression of enemy air defenses.

The first AEF was deployed to Shaikh Isa, Bahrain from October to December 1995. There have been six AEF deployments with the most recent, the 366th Air Expeditionary Wing, [Mountain Home, AFB, Idaho](#), returning from Bahrain in October and November. (Courtesy of ACC News Services)





Released: Nov. 18, 1997

ACC bases ready to deploy AEF to Persian Gulf

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Approximately 30 aircraft, including two B-1 bombers, have been approved by the President for deployment to the Persian Gulf Region if requested. The planes are from Moody AFB, Ga., Shaw AFB, S.C., Eglin AFB, Fla., and Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

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